



The SBU Monthly News

June 2023

Content of Issue 19

What's on in Summer 2023

Perth Café Bridge, 19 August

Bridge Beginners Resource

A New Approach to International Activities

Scottish Bridge Players Fantasy Football League

Puzzle Corner

Clap Our Clubs: the Dundee BC Mascot

Card Combination Quiz

It's a Funny Old Game

Results Page

Master Point Promotions

(May 2023)

Answers to Quiz

Crossword Solution

Fun Bridge in a Beautiful Location

Phil Ashby and Tony Graham

Mike Ash

Iain Sime

A Crossword from 'Finesse'

Alice Cowieson

Contributions to the Monthly News will be warmly welcomed by the editor

liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

What's on Offer in the Summer

National Events are finished for this season: one last chance to win **National (Red) master points** in the **East District Hunter Cup Swiss Teams**

Sunday 25 June, face-to-face in the Carlton Bridge Centre

6x8-board matches in 2 sessions of 24 boards

Entry fee: £60 per team includes free tea and coffee. Other catering can be purchased on site.

SBU Saturday Swiss Pairs (16)

Every Saturday Evening at 7pm for 9 weeks on BBO, starting **17 June**.

Entries welcome from all SBU Members! No requirement to play every week!

Format: 5 rounds of 5 boards scored in match-points.

The average of the 6 best partnership scores will determine the series winners after week 9.

Local (black) masterpoints are awarded to players finishing in the top quarter for each separate tournament along with points for winning matches. There is a **Bonus of 150 black masterpoints** for the Series winners and bonus masterpoints to the top third in the final ranking.

Entry fee BBO\$4.50 per player for each tournament.

Register for Tournaments on BBO (search for SBU up to 2 hours in advance)

This event is restricted to SBU Members: please ensure your Mempad record is updated with your BBO username

The SBU also runs these events on **BBO**

Saturdays at 11.45 am: Bronze Brunch

Sundays at 3 pm: Teatime Individual

To enter go to www.bridgebase.com. Click on [Play or Watch Bridge](#); then select [Competitive](#) from the menu.

Under [Tournaments](#) click on [All Tournaments](#). Enter **SBU** in the search box (top right).

Select your tournament and when your partner is online invite them to play, using their BBO username.

Payment is made in BBO\$, you can purchase those by clicking on the shopping cart next to your name.

SBU Summer Academy

During Lockdown, the SBU ran a [Summer Academy](#) as an opportunity to continue the Bridge learning experience in a fun and friendly way.

Now that the clubs have re-opened and there are opportunities to play real-life bridge with real-life people the Academy has been discontinued.

It is useful to practice your newly-learned bridge skills – all too easy to forget!

So, there is an opportunity for those who cannot get to a club for whatever reason:

You can join Play and Learn sessions run by Grace White.

For more details contact Grace at grace.northlodge@gmail.com

Perth Café Bridge: Saturday 19th August 2023

If you have been to an Antwerp Café BridgeDrive you will recognize the format - start after lunch, play 28 hands of bridge with a free beverage in each of the seven choice hostelries in the city centre.

Players enjoy short walks between each round. Ideal for those who work weekdays and the young at heart.

The 2023 Antwerp event, their 26th, hosted by the Riviera Club, expects over 1000 bridge players.

Perth Bridge Club will give an equally warm welcome and hopes to have well over 100 participants for their inaugural event. Top pair prize is £150, along with many other prizes.

Miriam Drysdale, one of the PBC organising team, has experienced the success of these fun, competitive tournaments in the Netherlands. She says " our PBC box office is now open. We are delighted with the initial support promised from local hostelries and businesses. We have the wonderful Victor Lesk coming to TD and score. Using our smart phones, and his scoring system, makes it super easy to get results quickly."

Dutch PBC player, Marijke Lafferty, who is enthusiastically leading the team, added "CaféBridge events definitely get bridge playing out into the community. They are known as kroegentocht, literally, a pub crawl! And most clubs in the Netherlands hold them annually.

We hope our exciting event, as well as giving all the players a good fun bridge day out, will attract more Perthites into our King Street club next season. "



26^e Antwerpse Café Bridgedrive
in 't hartje van de Sinjorenstad

ZATERDAG
9 september 2023
aanvang: 12:30 u

Aanmelden tussen 10 h 00 en 11h15

INSCHRIJVING:
€88 - per paar
€44 - per persoon
(7 consumpties inbegrepen)

Betaling dient als inschrijvingsbewijs

1^e Prijs: €250
2^e - 5^e geldprijzen
6^e - 15^e prijzen in natura.

INFO + INSCHRIJVING OP:
www.rivierabridgeclub.be
INSCHRIJVING: Over te schrijven op rekeningnummer: RIVIERA vzw - KBC Antwerpen; IBAN: BE60734068632970
E-mail: sinjorentocht@gmail.com

Ontdek Antwerpen, stad aan de stroom, al bruggend.
Ook dit jaar hebben we weer vele typische Antwerpse cafeetjes voor u geselecteerd. Onze bridgeclub Riviera staat garant voor een warm onthaal, een uitstekende organisatie en een gezellige en sportieve bruggenmiddag. Nadien nodigen wij iedereen uit op ons Antwerps volksfeest.

De inschrijvingen worden afgesloten op zondag 3 september.



Perth Café Bridge
Organized by Perth Bridge Club SCIO 049190

Saturday 19th August '23

Parklands Hotel - Royal George Hotel - The Grill Bar
Cullach Brewing Taproom - St. Matthew's Church - The Tavern
The Twa Tams - and other city centre venues

£30 Entry - Includes Bridge and Beverages

Register online at
brianbridge.net/perth2023



Contacts:
Marijke Lafferty
e: mclz@blueyonder.co.uk
Victor Lesk t: 07804 953460
e: brianplaysbridge@gmail.com

Bridge Beginners Resource

Fellow Bridge players, we all remember what it was like when we started to learn our wonderfully frustrating game (some probably more clearly than others!) It takes a lot of practice and time to learn the rules of what to bid or not to bid and how to respond to your partner etc.

Now, as a recent beginner, Phil Ashby from Oban Bridge Club pondered this and from his background in Training and Development he knew that one of the key learning tools is the use of repetition with feedback. When he considered Bridge, he believed this is one of the reasons why it takes beginners (himself included!) a while to grasp the concepts. It's due to the lack of repetition. And he has a point.

Consider an evening of Bridge for a beginner. They may get say 20 to 24 boards to play and of those, half the time they will be poor hands that they'll end up passing on. This means that in the 2 or 3 hours they're playing, they're only maybe making 2 or 3 opening bids, (if they're lucky!). And of those opening bids, were they the correct ones? Should they have opened with 1 Spade or 1NT? So, in 2 or 3 hours they've had very little actual practice.

With this in mind, Phil started chatting to his Bridge partner and mentor, Tony Graham, and with Tony's input and Phil's website skills, they have developed an online training tool for practising opening and responding bids.

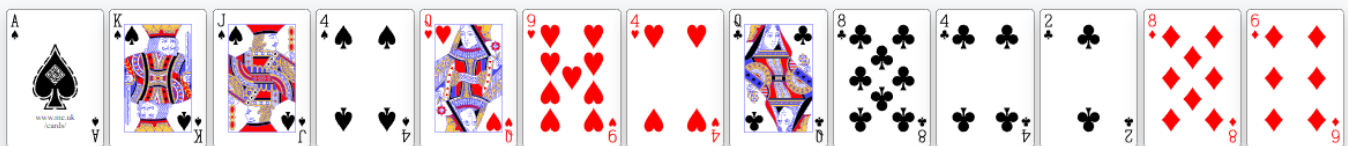
Now, we need to stress that this site is designed for BEGINNERS, so you more experienced players may raise a hand and say, "hold on, that's not right", but the idea of this website is to slowly introduce the basic concepts of Bridge, such as hand shape, point counting, scoring, opening bids and simple responses.

They have created lessons that build upon each other, starting with a stripped back basic convention and slowly building on the learning, which in turn, develops the convention into something more complex.

Critically, it also has practice areas for each lesson. For example, in the basic opening bids lesson you are dealt a hand and have to choose your opening bid. Your answer is checked instantly against the convention and feedback given and another hand is dealt, and another and another...non-stopping, forever! This means that beginners can practice their opening bids hundreds of times in quick succession thus introducing repetition and feedback.

You've been dealt the following hand. Look at the shape and points and choose what to respond with and see if you agree with the computer!

Your partner has opened with 1 ♦



It also can deliver very specific hands too. For example, how often do we receive a potential Strong 2 hand or a pre-emptive hand? In the specific practice areas, it delivers *possible* hands of those types that beginners can bid on, again and again, giving feedback each time.

The chaps have been testing it out with a few of the beginners in Loch Awe and it has proved very successful. So now they are keen to share it with the wider Bridge community and for us to give them any feedback. Perhaps you think their convention needs amending or they've missed something that you think beginners need to know. All feedback will be gratefully received, which you can do through the contact area on the site.

And of course, if you know of any beginners who would benefit from the site then please feel free to share far and wide. Phil and Tony are more than happy for all the SBU clubs to use the site to help their beginners to learn.

Their plan going forward is to develop this further, taking the bidding process through to its close, but Phil says that will take them a little more time!

And finally, whilst I'm sure most of you are able to score your hands in a blink of an eye, they've also included a very easy, tap to use scoring calculator which you can access from the main menu. I'm sure beginners will find this invaluable!

Tony and Phil really hope you find the site useful, and they know that they will find your feedback useful!

You can access the website from this link: <https://bridgetrainer.co.uk>

A new approach to international activities

An update from **Mike Ash**, Director of Selection.

You may have seen that the SBU board commissioned a Review Group to look at all aspects of how Scotland participates in international events. Although only a minority of SBU members are involved in these – the current database has about 120 names – competing on the UK, European and World stage takes up a significant share of the SBU's budget, even though the players themselves often contribute to the costs.



The Review made recommendations, which the Board supported. These were:-

- The Board will appoint a Director of Selection (DoS) who will be responsible for all aspects of international players support, training, and selection. The DoS will be answerable to the board but will be supported by a small group of experienced players who will advise on selection etc.
(The role was advertised but, in the absence of any applicants, I agreed to take it on)
- All 'junior' teams, including a new Under 31 category, will be part of the remit of the DoS.
- All activities will be designed to help players improve rather than just focus on 'trials'. Results from various performance events, including those outside Scotland, will inform rather than determine selection.
- The SBU remains committed to supporting the various Home Internationals but will send teams to European Championships only if the available players are expected to achieve a reasonable result or are younger players with the potential to improve. It is likely that there will only be part-funding available for 2 teams (out of 4 categories available).

Working with Marina Evans, Education Convener, we would like to increase the participation in schools, not least because this is the way we can develop players for the future. Many countries have 9- or 10-year-olds playing. To this end we are hoping to set up an Under-16 squad. If we can do this, we would like to send a team to the European Youth Championships in July next year.

You can help us in two ways:-

- 1 Do you know anyone who can **promote bridge in a local school**?
We have all the materials you would need to both explain the advantages of the game for developing minds and the equipment a person would need to start a club in a school. If you have any ideas – even a possible person to speak to – please contact Marina at education@sbu.org.uk
- 2 We need to raise money to pay for trainers and equipment to promote the game in both schools and universities. Would your club be prepared to run a **fundraising** event?

We will let you know about national simultaneous pairs we are running to support junior development in due course but any extra events – or even a raffle – would make a difference. Again, please contact Marina if you have an event planned or you or your club are willing to organise something.

Scottish Bridge Players Fantasy Football League

We have now finished our third season with a record 19 teams. The champion is Marina, proving again that her win in the first edition was not a fluke. Jim Mason's Unsporting Lisbon narrowly took second place. Iain Sime won the prize for the best second half of the season.

1. No One Likes Us (Marina Evans)	2532	Wins £100
2. Unsporting Lisbon (Jim Mason)	2487	Wins £30
3. Simeone (Iain Sime)	2484	Wins £20
4. Inter Nolan (Tony Nolan)	2427	
5. Bruntsfield Athletic (Fiona McQuaker)	2408	
6. Nodrogila (Ali Gordon)	2366	
7. Sheriff Ten Haag (Kevin Ren)	2350	

These top seven of our teams were in the top 10% of all teams (more than 11 million of them) proving again that bridge players are good at this. All but one of the 19 teams finished in the top half.

The Cup Final was contested by two teams from our super seven.

Willie Nelson's Arsenal won £20 with a convincing win over Mike Young's Megahearts.

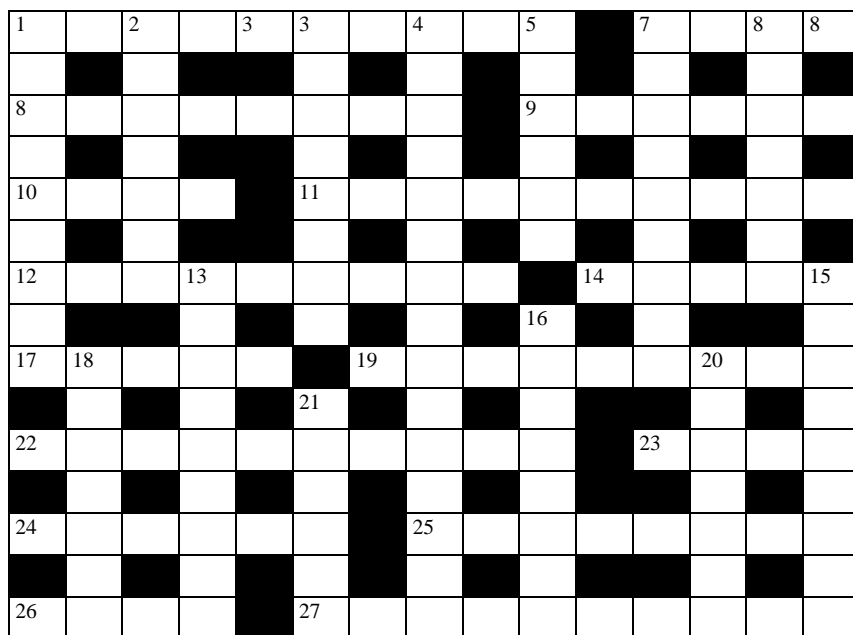
If you would like to join next season, please email iain.sime63@gmail.com

The league is expected to start on Friday 11 August.

If you are interested in how it all works, visit <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/help>

It is FREE to play and be included in the standings. We ask for £10 to be eligible for the prizes.

Crossword by 'Finesse'



Across

- 1 Trying to escape a rollicking, Ryan's left his dinner (7,3)
- 6 Fish without a rod (4)
- 8 Extremely pale man meets extremely taken aback Italian composer (8)
- 9 So joining up could be a neat conclusion! (6)
- 10 Parting shot partly redacted by editor (4)
- 11 After losing second set, wily Bueno started the next when no-one was looking (10)
- 12 Gathered when fifty were redeployed US general was in command (9)
- 14 Port with sole fishing rights? (5)
- 17 Scruffy but with a lot of good inside (5)
- 19 Cool chaps have to be ordered to wear one (6,3)
- 22 Confounding your superlatives, series is discarded for sensualist (10)
- 23 Charge about in real life (4)
- 24 Couple batting play their part (4,2)
- 25 Cromwell's trooper provoked derision (8)
- 26 Fish scale's lowest quarter, we hear (4)
- 27 A security threat, returning friends of Dorothy are detained by the police in secret finally (5,5)

Down

- 1 Both sexes followed big race on the air (7,1,1)
- 2 French group in a position to punctuate Greek letter (7)
- 3 Glaxo's leading development of soluble pills (8)
- 4 'But there's a sting in the tail' said Enoch shiftily, when pinched by the fuzz (8,7)
- 5 Selfish doctrine sees a regular rising of mystic orgies (6)
- 6 Ducks low after wide is punished (9)
- 7 The upcoming French version of 'Summer Wine' carries a childlike innocence (7)
- 13 Together we declare move - you resign! (9)
- 15 Sickening upset for outcast before Easter (9)
- 16 Sweet tipsy Polly is hugged by Mr Orbison (4-4)
- 18 Tender lover (7)
- 20 Alternating particles occur in science - domestic science (7)
- 21 Make amends round about now (2,4)
- 22 Give birth to, and shave the top off it! (4)

Clap Our Clubs

The Dundee Penguin

With some district face-to-face competitions taking place in Dundee Bridge Club, we have been welcoming more visitors to our premises.

A number have commented on the penguin who sits on the mantelpiece in the downstairs playroom. She is the DBC mascot. The Welsh Guards have a goat, New Melville have a panda, we have a penguin.

Why a penguin, I hear you ask?

Some felt a whale was more in keeping with Dundee's whaling past and now we have a metal sculpture of one next to the V&A. But look past the V&A and you will see a fine ship, and, in front of the Discovery Centre, there are penguins. The whaling industry meant Dundee could build ships suitable for sailing in pack ice and RRS Discovery was the first research ship built. It made many trips to the Arctic and Antarctic – thus the penguin sculptures. A whale is not so cuddly as a penguin.

Driving to the club, I often see small children give the penguins a hug. I've never seen anyone hug the metal whale. Also, whales tend to be a bit large to sit on a mantelpiece or carry in your suitcase.

The decision was made that a penguin be purchased. A member knitted her DBC scarf, and she made her first appearance at last year's Montrose congress, where a team of young DBC members claimed victory.

As yet a name hasn't been completely agreed although the suggestion of Emma has been made. In Dundee parlance - "E'm a penguin!"



Alice Cowieson

Card Combination Quiz

You are South, declarer in a no-trump contract, and you want to play this suit to best advantage. Assuming you have lots of entries in each hand, how should you play?

1 ♠A43
 ♠QJ54

2 ♠AQJ3
 ♠T52

3 ♠AQT4
 ♠952

4 ♠AJ43
 ♠Q5

5 ♠Q94
 ♠AJT2

6 ♠Q43
 ♠AT6

7 ♠AJ43
 ♠K65

8 ♠QT4
 ♠A652

9 ♠K542
 ♠Q763

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

There's Nae Justice

Those of us who have been playing for some time are well aware that the concept of justice does not exist in bridge : virtue is rarely rewarded; sins go unpunished, and the innocent suffer.

There is a character in bridge literature called the Unlucky Expert whose grandiose ploys always gang agley. To-day's E/W were no Experts, just Unlucky.

Bd 4	♠4	NS VUL
	♥A9	Dir N
	♦8532	
	♣A65432	
♠A986		♠K7532
♥872		♥653
♦964		♦Q
♣JT8		♣KQ97
	♠QJT	
	♥KQJT4	
	♦AKJT7	
	♣-	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	3♣	P	4♥
End			

N/S were a very inexperienced pair. The bidding was quite simple if not scientific. South made 11 tricks in 4♥. At most other tables N/S were in 5♦ making 12.

(I know, I know, we will gain from the weaker players as the game proceeds. But they did us on the next board as well, so don't talk to me about justice!)

Robin MacEwen

The Unlucky Expert featured in Findlay MacDonald's review of "Why You Lose at Bridge" by SJ Simon. This contribution brings to mind one of the deals from Chapter 12: "A Rubber at the Club".

The 'bidding' progresses:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
MR SMUG	UNLUCKY EXPERT	FUTILE WILLIE	MRS GUGGENHEIM
			P
P	P	1♥	P
2♦	P	2♠	P
3NT	P	4NT	P
5♦	P	6NT	Dbl
Redbl	End		

Mrs Guggenheim is desperate to make the opening lead, but it is not her turn....

The Unlucky Expert looks at this hand

♠9xxx
♥Jxx
♦9xx
♣xxx

He expertly concludes that Mrs Guggenheim is anxious to lead because she has an Ace-King somewhere.

Probably in diamonds: East's reverse signals strong holdings, and the unbid suit is usually well held.

But the double should be Lightner, asking for an unusual lead, probably dummy's second suit...

Is it ethical to lead a diamond based on unauthorised information from partner's demeanour?

He values his reputation too much. He grits his teeth and prepares to concede a few thousand points by leading a spade.

Mrs Guggenheim cashes 4 spade tricks for 1600.

"The Unlucky Expert sat in a daze: 'Could there be justice after all?'"

Results Page

Benjamin Individual

The Benjamin is a one-of-a-kind event, to which the leading players on the Master Point register, plus those who have earned most master points in the last three seasons, are invited.

It is normally held alongside the other Ranked Master individuals but was postponed till 7 May this year to avoid a clash with the EBU Spring Foursomes. It was held online with an entry of 6 tables. Players played 2 boards with each other player, but the movement was less balanced when it came to opponents!

1	Steve Male	57.61%
2	Ronan Valentine	56.52%
3	Sandy Duncan	56.30%
4	John Dick	55.65%
5	Eddie McGeough	54.78%
6	Roy Bennett	54.35%
7	Peter Moss	53.70%
8	Joan Lees	53.48%

Scottish Mixed Swiss Pairs and Teams

32 pairs competed in the **Ruby Martyn Mixed Swiss Pairs** in the New Melville Bridge Club on 27 May. There were 8 rounds of 6 boards

1	Liz McGowan & Tim McKay	111 VP
2=	Katharine Bailey & Iain Sime	106 VP
	Fiona Greenwood & Derek Sanders	106 VP
4	Anne Perkins & Troy van de l'Isle	104 VP
5	Joan Forsyth & Angus MacDonald	103 VP
6	Sandy Duncan & Ying Piper	99 VP
7	Susan Aitchison & Jim Forsyth	98 VP
8	Andrew Harborow & Julia Palmer	95 VP

The **Helen Walton Mixed Teams**, also in the New Melville on Sunday 28 May, mustered 15 teams. 6 x 8-board matches were played.

1	Brian Short, Anne Symons, Fiona McQuaker, Iain Sime	83 VP
2	Lucia Barrett, Brian Spears, Derrick Peden, Marina Evans	73 VP
3	Y Haik, June Morrison, F Kreek, H Thygesen	68 VP
4	Sandy Duncan, Ying Piper, Gints Freimanis, Liz McGowan	64 VP

Overseas Congress Results

The **Congress Swiss Pairs** had 20 tables

1	Alan Goodman & Iain Sime	148 VP
2	Sandy Davies & Carole Kelly	123 VP
3	Lucia Barrett & Derrick Peden	115 VP
4	L Bridson & C Thompson	113 VP

The **Congress Swiss Teams** had the same 20 tables

1	S Lane, D Rutter, K Carpenter & M Wilcox	94 VP
2	Earl McGregor, Helen Wood, Jim Forsyth, Angus Macdonald	84 VP
3	Laurence Archer, Ron Hounsell, Shirish Chotai, Les Verth	80 VP
4	Sandy Davies, Carole Kelly, R & B Cohen	77 VP

Pre-Congress Pairs were won by **Earl McGregor & Helen Wood**; **Multi Pairs** by **Eilidh Rennie & Marc Evans**;
Open Teams winners were **Veronica Guy, Shiena Lang, Robert Clow, Derrick Peden.**
Marc Shearer, Michele Grainger, Eddie McGeough, Matthew Pumphrey

Master Point Promotions

May 2023

Scottish Master	1 Star Master	District Master	Club Master
David Pollard W	Ross Angus E	Dawn Beckett E	Allison Bowman W
Mary Storrar E	Sylvia Copland W	Peter Beckett E	Kathryn Edgerton C
Regional Master	Master	Gerald Della-Porta E	Peter Edgerton C
Ron Hounsell W	Clifford Brown N	John Gough W	Alaister Forsyth W
4 Star Master	Donald Grant E	Janette Lambie E	Bill Gatliff E
John Allen E	Frances Kay E	Jo Walker E	Jeremy Gibb E
2 Star Master	Anne Lambie E	Local Master	Jim Morton S
Katharine Bailey E	Alice Lappin E	Elizabeth Cunningham W	Geoffrey Reid E
Roy Heanes E	Margaret Rice W	Nora Hawes E	
Liz Young E	Barry Ross W	Pat Herd E	
	Linda Sime E	Alison Jamieson A	

Answers to Quiz:

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 ♠A43 | 2 ♠AQJ3 | 3 ♠AQT4 | 4 ♠AJ43 | 5 ♠Q94 |
| ♠QJ54 | ♠T52 | ♠952 | ♠Q5 | ♠AJT2 |
| <i>Lead twice towards QJxx
Finesse cannot gain</i> | <i>Lead low to Jack, then low
again in case W has Kx</i> | <i>Similarly, low to T, back to
hand and low again</i> | <i>Lead towards Qx –
3 tricks if E has Kxx</i> | <i>Run 9, then Q to pick up
Kxxx in East</i> |
| 6 ♠Q43 | 7 ♠AJ43 | 8 ♠QT4 | 9 ♠K542 | |
| ♠AT6 | ♠K65 | ♠A652 | ♠Q763 | |
| <i>Lead towards Qxx. If E
wins K finesse T next time</i> | <i>A, K then low towards Jx =
best chance of 3 tricks</i> | <i>Low to T, back to hand
and low towards Q</i> | <i>If W has Ax lead to K, then duck
If E has Ax lead to Q, then duck. Guess well</i> | |

Solution to Crossword

1C	O	2T	T	A	3G	E	4P	I	5E		7W	A	8N	D
L		A			L		O		G		A		A	
8A	L	B	I	N	O	N	I		9O	X	T	A	I	L
S		L			B		S		I		E		V	
10S	H	E	D		11U	N	O	B	S	E	R	V	E	D
I		A			L		N		M		F		T	
12C	L	U	13S	T	E	R	E	D		14D	O	V	E	15R
F			I		S		D		16R		W			E
17M	18A	N	G	Y		19S	C	H	O	O	L	20C	A	P
	M		O		21A		H		L			U		E
22V	O	L	U	P	T	U	A	R	Y		23F	I	L	L
	R		R		O		L		P			S		L
24J	O	I	N	I	N		25J	R	O	N	S	I	D	E
	S		E		C		C		L			N		N
26D	O	R	Y		27E	N	E	M	Y	A	G	E	N	T